LITERATURE.

REVIEW OF NEW BOOKS. THREE SEASONS IN EUROPEAN VINEYARDS, By William J. Flagg. Received from Claxton, Remsen & Haffelfinger.

This work is a dissertation on vine culture, wine making, and wine drinking in Europe and America. The author passed three seasons in the principal wine-making districts of Europe for the purpose of investigating all the mysteries of vine culture, with a view of obtaining the necessary information for introducing a proper system into the United States. His experiences are related in a pleasant, readable manner, and he is sufficiently minute in his descriptions to give them a practical value to all who are interested in the subject of vine growing in the United States. The work is interesting of itself, and it contains a great deal of practical information about the cultivation of vines, their diseases and cure, wine making and wine drinking as affecting health and morals. It is illustrated with a number of diagrams which explain the methods of planting and growing very clearly, and the usefulness of the work is enhanced by a full index.

We quote the following exhilarating description of a wine-tasting party in the cellar of the Schloss-Johannisberg:-

"Four o'clock had come, and the gods were assembling—that is to say, a party of ladies and gentlemen were descending the steps of a door at the side of the castle, and were about entering that of the cellars which opened close by it One of them, a lady of the Hungarian type of face, cloaked and hooded for the descent into the lower regions, met me as I drew near, and addressed me in perfect English.
"I told her why I had come to Johannisberg,

adding that, had I known, however, of her being there, I should not have taken the liberty.
"But why not?' she said, 'I'm sure I feel very much obliged to you for taking the

"Which made me feel I was no intruder. "The cellars were right under the schloss. As we entered I could perceive that it was wide and high, arched overhead, and remarkably dry and clean. Numerous candles lighted it brilliantly At the upper end was a sort of stage scene formed of green-house trees, shrubs, and flowers, and other ornaments, having quite a pretty

"It seemed it was a wine-tasting party, com-posed of people assembled from the neighbor-hood, and some friends then on a visit to the princess. And on that day of all others, when wine was to rain down, it was my fortune to be there with my goblet held up !

"After making a tour of the alleys, we reached a place where a table was spread and chairs arranged, around which the company seated them-After an explanation from M. Herzmansky that, though her highness had ordered coffee, vet, as it was inconsistent with that perfect equilibrium of the senses and freshness of the organs of taste required where his nectar was to be received, he had taken the liberty of suppressing it, and would at once proceed to place before us samples of different vintages in the order of their merit, beginning with one of the lower grades (all which was explained to me by Count Zechy, next whom I sat), the wine was then served in green Hock glasses of good capacity. The first, and least good of the eight or ten different sorts, was much the best white wine I had ever tasted. It was followed by a better, and then a better, and then a better still, mounting in scale of graduated excellence-the enthusiasm rising, too, in like measure—until the best was reached in form of a cask twentyone years old-just come to its majority, in the sipping of which one could only exclaim, 'Won-derful! wonderful! 'The bride of the cellar' was yet to come; and she came, radiant and delightful as star-crowned Ariadne, bride of Bacchus.
"Is it expected I should describe these upper

Johannisbergers? Epithets, comparatives, and superlatives gave out in exhaustion a long way down the ladder. 'Richness,' 'fineness,' 'softness, 'body,' 'vinosity,' 'flavor,' bouquet,' terms of commerce and of table small-talk, all apply to wine, and are limited in meaning by the finite qualities of their subject. But I am writing of JOHANNISBERGER.

"Shall I talk poetry to it, and try to compass its excellence with figures and flowers of speech? Or shall I quote, where I dare not originate, and make the Great Master of the lyre speak for me? Let us see. He has done his tersest and best when he tells us Ulysses took with him to the isle of the Cyclops wine that was "'Rich, unadulterate, and fit for gods to drink.

"But would the gods themselves be fit For drink so rich and pure as it?"

"'Look there!' said Count Zechy. I looked up, and saw the scene I have named at the other end of the grotto, slowly rise in the air, floating among clouds of violet and rose, through which shone rays of every iris tint—the scene itself changing, as it moved, into a celestial landscape. For a long while it remained in view. Now it approached and now receded, all the time rising, and so, gently coming and going, and slowly mounting upwards, it passed away.
"Was it "the bride of the cellar" had made us

see this beautiful thing? 'No; it was M. Herzmansky burning Bengal lights among the green-house plants.
"As, in the course of the tasting, I had taken to the quantity of two or three glasses, or maybe

more, it is proper I should say something of the effects of those high Johannisbergers. "To begin, the first effect was the same as poor Proscrpine felt when, having tasted the juice of pomegranates grown in Pluto's dominions, she wanted to live there through all eternity. So felt I, in those lower regions of Johannisberger. After partaking of the charmed fruit, I was spell-bound, and tore myself not

"Coffee excites the brain, and tea the liver, with an unbalanced action. Hasheesh and oplum are liars which cheat the senses with unreal objects, born of the vapors of the brain they disorder. But wine acts honestly on the real, and, while exalting the action of every part within us, and the effect of every object without us, works only with the actual and the true. Accordingly, as I drove down hill, the working of the spell that lay in the kiss upon my lips the cellar's bride gave glorified all the wide Rhineland, already glorious with the sunset, giving to the waters a brighter sparkle, and deepening the purple of the shadowy hills. By the same power, every event since the morning came over the mind again and again, with repeated titillations of memory's chord, multiplying that one delightful day into many. I was contented with all things and all events, for all had treated me well. The river and the hills had pleased me; the air and skies had been amiable; the people I had met had been polite and kind; and I realized most vividly-what was true most really-that the heavens were good, and the earth was good, and the fruits of it passing description—that this was the best possible of worlds, and the queen

of its queens the Princess Metternich.' -From Parmelee & Co., No. 738 Sansom street, we have received "Laws of Business for all the States in the Union, with Forms and Directions for all Transactions," by Theophilus Parsons, LL.D. As a writer on law, Professor Parsons has no equal in the country: he is clear and concise in style, and has the rare faculty of making a dry subject interesting to the ordinary reader. The present work is an admirable digest for popular use, and the various subjects are discussed in such a clear and forcible manner that it cannot fail to be of the greatest practical benefit to citizens of all classes who wish to know what their rights and duties are. It contains chapters on I taken for introducing it. Another question

commercial law in general; on infants or minors; married women and their rights; sales; guaranty; payment; notes and bills of exchange; agency; partnership; arbitration; carriage of goods and passengers by railroads and other carriers; patents; copyrights; statute of limitations; interest and usury; bankruptcy; shipping; marine, fire, and life insurance; deeds of land; mortgages of land; mortgages of personal property; leases; liens of mechanics and material men; pensions for soldiers and sailors; the recovery of debts; wills; executors and administrators; guardians; the stamp act; and other topics, all of which are discussed concisely, but with sufficient fullness for all practical purposes. The work is handsomely printed and substantially bound, and it will be sold only by subscription.

-From J. B. Lippincott & Co. we have received "Poems of Rural Life" by William Barnes, "Handy Volume" Edition. We spoke in warm terms of praise respecting these poems when they first appeared some months ago, and we again heartily commend them to the lovers of genuine poetry. There is beauty and freshness about the graceful little idyls scattered through the volume, and the homeliest subjects are treated with a tenderness and fine poetic feeling that give them a charm that is lacking in many more pretentious efforts. These poems contain the genuine poetry of the fields, the flowers, and rural life, and the shepherds and shepherdesses of the quaint Dorsetshire idyls are no mock heroines, but real lads and lasses such as Burns has glorified, and such as Mr. Barnes has met all his life in the lanes and cottages of the quiet country which has furnished him with the subjects of his verse.

-From Turner Brothers & Co. we have received Our Boys and Girls, edited by Oliver Optic, for Saturday, June 12.

Foreign Notes.

-The Bodleian Library, at Oxford, is to be enlarged, as it has not proper room for all its books and manuscripts. The University are going to build new examination-schools on the site of the old Angel Inn; and they will give up the whole ground-floor of the present Bodleian building to the library.

-A cromlech in the island of Jersey has been recently opened. This proved to be a small but undisturbed cromlech, in plan a parallelogram, consisting of an avenue of upright slabs running nearly east and west, closed at both ends by broad slabs, and whose centre is covered with three capstones. Apparently, the two end capstones, which would have completed the structure, have been taken away. The northern side slabs were seven in number, and all tilted inwards by the pressure of accumulated sand. The southern side was composed of five larger slabs, with a slight inclination outwards from the same cause. The three capstones averaged seven by three feet, but were slightly deranged from their original site and slipped between the supporting rocks. The length of the structure is twenty feet by four broad, inside, and the depth of the side slabs averages four feet six inches. Under the upper layer of the white sand was found very fine dark soil. In the northwest corner broken pottery was found, as the working proceeded urns were discovered, all on the north side, nine of which have been preserved, and are more or less perfect; slight traces of osseous interment, and a few fragments of charred ash, whether vegetable or not is uncertain, were discovered. A stone amulet, drilled with two holes, apparently for suspension, and a few flint flakes were also found; the jars were always placed within small cists of that sea-worn stones, One curious feature, which is generally apparent in similar structures, was here wanting; no layer of limpet shells was met with, which probably indicates the interments as being of a secondary or later period. Mr. Lukis has preserved several ancient brouze wedges, which were picked up in this locality. It is hoped that strangers will not be allowed to carry away these valuable curiosities-valuable only, however, when associated with the localities in which they were found.

-The British Archeological Society of Rome has ended its proceedings for the season. The weekly lectures and excursions were continued so long as there were any English or Americans in Rome. Mr. Parker concluded the series with an account of recent excavations, and announced that, for want of funds, they could not be continued during the summer. The latest discovery was of remains of the Thermse of Severus and Commodus, on the opposite side of the Via Appia to those of Antoninus. Mr. Parker announced that the "Lecture on the Ancient Streets of Rome, and the Roads in its Neighborhood, had been printed for members, with an en-

graving of the foss-ways, or hollow-ways. -The Emperor is so highly displeased with the choice recently made by the French Academy in filling up vacancies, that he has written to the perpetual secretary to say that he shall be glad to dispense with the usual ceremony of receiving the new academicians. In truth both M. Barbier and M. d'Haussonville have never spared the Bonaparte dynasty, and "The Relations between the Church of Rome and the First Empire," which the latter gentleman is now publishing, is a violent indictment brought against the Emperor Napoleon for his haughty and insolent dealings with Rome.

-According to letters from Jerusalem, the Marquis of Bute is edifying the dwellers in that city by his piety and his liberality. He passes long hours in tears and prayer at the various spots where the last scenes of the Passion are supposed to have been enacted. His lordship's almoner, Monsignor Capel, has been preaching in English to large bodies of pilgrims belonging to numerous English and American creeds, and his remarkable eloquence brings together a large and heterogeneous audience, whenever it is known that he is likely to occupy the pulpit in the chapel of the Ecce Homo.

-One of the most important reforms announced by the Turkish Government is the establishment of a civil code, which will be binding on all the subjects of the Sultan, without distinction of creed. A legislative commission is to be appointed for this purpose under the direction of Ali Pasha. This commission will be instructed to commence its labors by a careful examination of all the precepts of the Koran relating to the civil organization of society, with the object of using them as a basis for the new code. The Koran will then no longer be, as hitherto, the official text-book for courts of justice, but only be recognized as an authority in questions of dogma and religious practice. This reform will doubtless be violently opposed by the clergy and the Turks of the old school, but it has been approved by the Sultan and his Ministers, and steps are already being

which is now under the consideration of the Council of State is a proposed alteration in the mode of collecting the taxes. At present all taxes in the empire are farmed out to speculators, who pay fixed sums to the Government, which in certain provinces amount to barely one-half of the contributions imposed on the inhabitants. The Government will in future receive the taxes through its own officials, as in other European

-It must be admitted that the new words and phrases which French writers occasionally add to the language are often exceedingly pointed and expressive. M. Nestor Roque plan has been very happy in his efforts in this direction. It is he who invented le gandin. and baptized la cocotte. During the reign of Louis Philippe, observing how invariably when the grisette made a step upwards in the path of immorality she hired an apartment in the Quartier Laffitte (then extremely fashionable), he renamed her lorette, and the word is likely to endure. The tribe of little consumptive, rickety, scrofulous children which abound in Paris received from him the name of les petits creves, and just now he has invented la Parisine, an expression which is henceforth to indicate a new type of feminine individuality among the Parisiennes,

-A French journal is responsible for the following: -In a certain small provincial town one of the residents, M. A. B., found that his house was rendered both damp and dark by the contiguity of a large tree which was inconveniently near to his windows. He would gladly have had it cut down, but the tree beonged to the commune and was not to be meddled with. Being a man of resources, he sent for insertion to one of the Paris papers the following paragraph:-"There is still in existence one of the trees of liberty of the date of 1793. It may be seen at X., close to the house of M, A. B., and the passers by reverently uncover their heads to this venerable witness of our grandest struggles and our most illustrious victory." Three days afterwards an order came from the prefecture in Paris for the Mayor of X, to cause the said tree to be cut down-which was accordingly done forthwith.

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